

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A method for producing a ketone compound, which comprises simultaneously dehydrating and hydrogenating an acyloin in the coexistence of an acid catalyst and a hydrogenation catalyst and in the presence of hydrogen.

2. (original): The method for producing a ketone compound according to claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is phosphoric acids or solid acids.

3. (original): The method for producing a ketone compound according to claim 1, wherein the acyloin is a 2-hydroxycycloalkanone having from 12 to 18 carbon atoms.

4. (previously presented): The method for producing a ketone compound according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogenation catalyst is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a nickel catalyst, a cobalt catalyst, a copper catalyst, a palladium catalyst, a platinum catalyst, a ruthenium catalyst, and a rhodium catalyst.

5. (new): A method for producing a ketone compound, which comprises simultaneously dehydrating and reducing an acyloin in the coexistence of an acid catalyst and a reduction catalyst and in the presence of hydrogen;

wherein the acid catalyst is phosphoric acids or solid acids; and

wherein the reduction catalyst is at least one member selected from the group consisting of a nickel catalyst, a cobalt catalyst, a copper catalyst, a palladium catalyst, a platinum catalyst, a ruthenium catalyst, and a rhodium catalyst.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
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6. (new): The method for producing a ketone compound according to claim 5, wherein the acyloin is a 2-hydroxycycloalkanone having from 12 to 18 carbon atoms.